Survey for new rail lines proposed during 2004-05

†1974. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposal for new railway lines, which have been included for survey work in the Railway Budget for 2004-05;

(b) the time frame fixed to complete survey work of the said new railway lines;

(c) the prescribed criteria to grant sanction to these railway lines after completion of survey work; and

(d) the State-wise figures regarding railway network in the country, the position of Rajasthan in railway network in comparison to other States alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) 41 Surveys for New Lines have been included in the Budget 2004-05. All the Surveys are targeted for completion during 2005-06.

(c) The policy for taking up new line projects was enunciated by the National Transport Policy Committee in 1980. This policy states that new lines would be taken up on the following criteria:

(i) Project oriented lines to serve new industries for tapping mineral and other resources;

(ii) Missing links for completing alternative routes to relieve congestion on existing saturated routes;

(iii) Lines required for strategic reasons; and

(iv) Lines for establishment of new growth centres or giving access to remote areas.

Apart from this, the financial viability of the project is also taken into consideration. As per extant norms, a project is considered financially

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

justified if it yields a return of not less than 14 per cent under Discounted Cash Flow Method.

(d) State-wise route Kms of Railway lines at the end of 2003-04 is given in Railways Year Book 2003-04.

Use of Kulhars

1975. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kulhars (earthen-pots) are used to serve tea in all the trains;

(b) if so, the details about the expenditure on Kulhars (earthen-pots) incurred by Government; and

(c) whether plastic cups/things have already been banned by Government in the trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The requirement of Kulhars per day is need based and the collection of this data is dynamic and voluminous. Hence, the total requirement of Kulhar per day and the total amount spent thereon can not be ascertained exactly. However, the approximate expenditure incurred on Kulhars from June to November, 2004 is Rs. 68,33,810/-.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Outsourcing by ICF

1976. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether outsourcing of parts to private companies have made ICF workers and machinery unutilised or idle;

(b)whether there is any plan to fully utilise the existing work force and machinery; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?